

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A method for measuring the infiltration of coring fluid into a core sample taken from a formation, comprising:
 - a) providing a coring fluid containing cesium in a first concentration;
 - b) using said coring fluid and a coring means to generate the core sample;
 - c) determining the concentration of cesium present in the core sample; and
 - d) comparing the core sample cesium concentration to the first concentration.
2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further including the step of using the results of the comparison in step d) to calculate the degree of infiltration of the coring fluid into the core sample.
3. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein step c) is performed using ICP-MS.
4. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein step c) includes disaggregation or centrifugation.
5. (Currently amended) A method for measuring the infiltration of coring fluid into a core sample taken from a formation, comprising:
 - a) providing a coring fluid containing cesium in a first concentration;
 - b) using said coring fluid and a coring means to generate the core sample;
 - c) determining the concentration of cesium present in the core sample; and
 - d) comparing the core sample cesium concentration to the first concentration;

~~The method according to claim 1~~ wherein the cesium concentration in the coring fluid is between 25 ppb and 250 ppm.
6. (Original) The method according to claim 5 wherein the cesium concentration in the coring fluid is between 25 ppb and 125 ppm.

7. (Currently amended) A method for measuring the infiltration of coring fluid into a core sample taken from a formation, comprising:

- a) providing a coring fluid containing cesium in a first concentration;
- b) using said coring fluid and a coring means to generate the core sample;
- c) determining the concentration of cesium present in the core sample; and
- d) comparing the core sample cesium concentration to the first concentration;

~~The method according to claim 1~~ wherein the cesium concentration in the coring fluid is at least 25 ppm.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further including using cesium as a weighting agent in the coring fluid.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further including using a device for reducing the amount of coring fluid that infiltrates the core sample during step b).

10. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein step c) includes using a displacing fluid to displace fluid from the core sample.

11. (Original) A method for measuring the infiltration of coring fluid into a core sample taken from a formation, comprising:

- a) providing a coring fluid containing cesium in a first concentration;
- b) using said coring fluid and a coring means to generate the core sample;
- c) determining the concentration of cesium present in the core sample;
- d) comparing the core sample cesium concentration to the first concentration; and
- e) using the results of the comparison in step d) to calculate the degree of infiltration of the coring fluid into the core sample.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 11 wherein step c) is performed using ICP-MS.

13. (Original) The method according to claim 11 wherein step c) includes disaggregation or centrifugation.

14. (Currently amended) The method according to claim ~~5~~, 11 ~~wherein the cesium concentration in the coring fluid is between 25 ppb and 250 ppm~~, further including the step of
e) using the results of the comparison in step d) to calculate the degree of infiltration of the coring fluid into the core sample.
15. (Currently amended) The method according to claim ~~7~~ 11 wherein the cesium concentration in the coring fluid is between 25 ppb and 125 ppm.
16. (Currently amended) The method according to claim ~~7~~ 11 ~~wherein the cesium concentration in the coring fluid is at least 25 ppm~~, further including the step of
e) using the results of the comparison in step d) to calculate the degree of infiltration of the coring fluid into the core sample.
17. (Original) The method according to claim 11, further including using cesium as a weighting agent in the coring fluid.
18. (Original) The method according to claim 11, further including using a device for reducing the amount of coring fluid that infiltrates the core sample during step b).
19. (Original) The method according to claim 11 wherein step c) includes using a displacing fluid to displace fluid from the core sample.
20. (New) A method for measuring the infiltration of coring fluid into a core sample taken from a formation, comprising:
a) providing a coring fluid containing cesium in a first concentration;
b) generating the core sample in the presence of said coring fluid;
c) determining the concentration of cesium present in the core sample; and
d) comparing the core sample cesium concentration to the first concentration;
wherein the cesium concentration in the coring fluid is between 25 ppb and 250 ppm.